

II. Amendments to the Claims

The text of all pending claims and the status of each claim is identified below:

1. (Withdrawn) A bone fixation apparatus, comprising: an intermedullary nail having a longitudinal axis and a proximal tip; a blade having a second longitudinal axis, said blade defining a recess extending in substantial parallel alignment with said second longitudinal axis, said recess configured to receive said proximal tip; and locking member to interconnect said tip and said blade.
2. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said recess is at least partially enclosed.
3. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said recess is enclosed on three sides and open on a fourth side.
4. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said recess extends along the second longitudinal axis over at least half of the length of the blade.
5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said blade further includes an aperture in communication with said recess, said aperture adapted to receive a fastening member configured for engagement with said tip.
6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said aperture is a slot.
7. (Withdrawn) A method of stabilizing long bone fractures, comprising: providing an elongate fixation member and a transverse stabilizer having a recess for receiving at least a portion of the elongate fixation member; obtaining access to the intermedullary canal of a long bone; positioning the elongate fixation member in the intermedullary canal; aligning the recess of the transverse stabilizer with the tip of the elongate fixation member; driving the transverse stabilizer in a direction substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongate fixation member to thereby position at least a portion of the elongate fixation member within the recess of the transverse stabilizer; and interconnecting the elongate fixation member and the transverse stabilizer.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein said driving includes impacting a portion of the transverse stabilizer.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said driving results in sliding engagement between the recess and the elongate member.

10. (Currently Amended) A reaming head, comprising:

a body having a longitudinal axis and an outer surface defining a longitudinally extending substantially cylindrical configuration extending over a majority of the circumference of said outer surface and a truncated surface interrupting said substantially cylindrical configuration;

a cutting element positioned in said truncated surface;

a transverse axis, transverse to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis intercepting at least a portion of the substantially cylindrical configuration, and intercepting at least a portion of the cutting element.

11. (Original) The reaming head of claim 10, wherein said cutting element is a blade extending in substantial alignment with said longitudinal axis.

12. (Original) The reaming head of claim 10, further including a rounded leading surface adjacent said cylindrical configuration.

13. (Original) A method of eccentric reaming, comprising: providing a reaming head having an outer surface with a cylindrical portion and a cutting element positioned opposite said cylindrical portion and configured for cutting upon oscillatory motion; inserting the reaming head into a bone opening; positioning said cylindrical portion adjacent tissue to be preserved; positioning the cutting surface adjacent tissue to be removed; oscillating the head of the reamer to cause the cutting surface to remove tissue.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said oscillating occurs over a range of 20 to 180 degrees.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said oscillating occurs over a range of 80 to 120 degrees.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said inserting further includes positioning a wire guide into the tissue and positioning the reamer over the wire guide prior to said inserting.

17. (New) The reaming head of claim 10, wherein said longitudinally extending substantially cylindrical configuration extends over an arc of at least 240° of the circumference of said outer surface.

18. (New) The reaming head of claim 10, wherein said longitudinally extending substantially cylindrical configuration is substantially uninterrupted.

19. (New) The reaming head of claim 10, wherein said longitudinally extending substantially cylindrical configuration consists essentially of a single longitudinally extending substantially cylindrical configuration.

20. (New) The reaming head of claim 10, wherein said cutting element consists essentially of a single cutting element.

21. (New) The reaming head of claim 10, further comprising a guide wire lumen.

22. (New) A reaming head, comprising:

a body having a longitudinal axis and a perpendicular axis perpendicular to the longitudinal axis;
an outer surface disposed on a first side of the body,
a truncated surface disposed on a second side of the body;
a cutting element positioned in said truncated surface;
a first end of the perpendicular axis intercepting at least a portion of the outer surface,
and a second end of the perpendicular axis intercepting at least a portion of the truncated surface.

23. (New) The reaming head of claim 22, wherein said cutting element comprises a blade extending in substantial alignment with said longitudinal axis.

24. (New) The reaming head of claim 22, further including a rounded leading surface adjacent

said outer surface.

25. (New) The reaming head of claim 22, wherein said outer surface extends over an arc of at least a majority of a circumference of said body.

26. (New) The reaming head of claim 22, wherein said outer surface extends over an arc of at least 240° of a circumference of said body.

a₁ 27. (New) The reaming head of claim 22, wherein said outer surface is substantially uninterrupted.

28. (New) The reaming head of claim 22, wherein said cutting element consists essentially of a single cutting element.

29. (New) The reaming head of claim 22, further comprising a guide wire lumen.
